



Vitter-Landrieu Louisiana Katrina Reconstruction Act Bill Summary (S. 1766, introduced 9/22/05)

Title I-Emergency Supplemental Appropriation

Subtitle A—Department of Defense-Military

- Over \$750 million for Defense Operation and Maintenance expenses incurred during relief efforts, to be distributed as follows: Army – \$15 million; Navy -\$400 million, Marine Corps - \$10 million, Defense Wide - \$50 million, Army Reserve - \$2.5 million, Navy Reserve - \$75 million, Air Force Reserve - \$10 million, Army National Guard - \$100 million, Air National Guard - \$100 million.
- \$547.4 million for Defense Procurement related to relief efforts, to be distributed as follows: Army - \$50 Million, Navy Shipbuilding - \$5 million, Air Force - \$117.4 million, Defense Wide - \$250 million, National Guard and Reserve Equipment - \$125 million.
- \$4 Million for Defense Working Capital Funds for emergency Katrina expenses in LA.
- \$15 million for the Defense Health Program.
- Temporary increase in the Family Separation Allowance to from \$250 to \$350, effective 29 August 2005.
- Will change National Guard and Army Reserve deployment policies. The policy will reflect that all deployments in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts shall be credited towards the “mobilization” requirement in the six year deployment cycle policy of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Subtitle B—Military Construction

- \$748 Million for Defense reconstruction of military facilities in Louisiana, to be distributed as follows: Army - \$20 Million, Navy and Marine Corps - \$5 Million, Air Force - \$3 Million, Defense Wide - \$160 Million, Army National Guard - \$250 Million, Naval Reserve - \$250 Million, Air National Guard - \$250 Million, Family Housing Navy and Marine Corps - \$20 Million, Family Housing Air Force - \$20 Million, Family Housing Defense Wide - \$20 Million.
- \$160,000,000 of the Military Construction fund will be directed to the City of New Orleans to implement the proposed “Federal City” initiative.
- Conveys all rights, titles, and interests in real property comprising the Naval Support Activity to the City of New Orleans or the Port of New Orleans.

Subtitle C—Veterans Affairs

- Provides \$1 billion for reconstruction and repair of damaged VA facilities, plus \$500 million for construction of a VA facility in New Orleans. Funds will be provided to specifically deal with health needs of veterans.

Subtitle D—Department of Commerce

- \$150 million in fisheries disaster assistance for distribution in direct grants to Louisiana harvesters and vessel owners as replacement of dockside values for all fishery resources.
- \$14 million for direct grants to Louisiana harvesters and vessel owners to replace dockside values for impacted menhaden fisheries.
- \$14 million in disaster assistance for the complete rehabilitation of hurricane-impacted public and private oyster reefs in the State of Louisiana.
- \$150 million for the establishment of strategically located emergency fisheries infrastructure facilities to service the affected fleets, fishermen and processors, to ensure that their product can reach market.
- \$14 million for replacement of coastal and marine research facilities.
- \$35 million to the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board for the rebuilding of lost markets that have been challenged by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.
- \$14 million to provide license renewal fees for commercial or recreational fishing license holders and to provide oyster lease rent or renewal fees.
- \$5 million to restore and rehabilitate marsh, nursery habitat for fish, shrimp, and crabs.
- \$4 million in emergency funding to the South Regional Climate Center for hurricane forecasting and data delivery in times of emergency. Additionally, \$5 million to the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center to implement an emergency response decision support system and expert guidance that can be rapidly deployed to support emergency response and recovery activities.
- U.S. Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with state officials, authorized to waive laws for one year relating to endangered species in waters impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Subtitle E—Department of Homeland Security

- \$1.033 million in Community Disaster loans to Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and St. Tammany Parish to provide immediate disaster relief
- \$91.2 million for emergency management performance grants for construction of Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) to provide immediate command centers and communication after a disaster or emergency event.
- \$2.5 million for urban search and rescue and natural disaster medical systems.
- \$250 million for assistance to firefighters for Hurricane Katrina-related expenses.

Subtitle F—Department of Health and Human Services

- \$400 million for substance abuse and mental health services funding, including dedicated funds for treatment of school-age children and suicide prevention programs.
- \$300 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for toxicity screening, assessment, and tracking, including \$100 million for mosquito abatement activities.
- \$36 million dedicated to Louisiana to provide low income home energy assistance.
- \$13 million for social services block grant under Social Security Act.
- \$11 million for family reunification and family support services programs.
- \$1.3 million to carry out a foster care independence program.
- \$26 million to promote safe and stable families program.
- \$1 billion for emergency relief to cover health care costs and expenses incurred by the public health emergency created by hurricane Katrina, including \$500 million to rebuild health care infrastructure.

Subtitle G—Department of Housing and Urban Development

- \$3.5 billion in Tenant-Based Rental Assistance for Section 8 Housing to ensure that families displaced by Hurricane Katrina can continue to receive assistance.
- \$40 billion for Community Development Block Grants to provide disaster relief and promote long-term recovery in the communities hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.
- \$5 billion in mortgage relief for those in affected areas in the amount of \$5 billion will allow people to work to rebuild their homes without the threat of foreclosure.

Subtitle H—Department of Transportation

- \$7 billion for construction, maintenance, and repair of evacuation and energy supply routes in LA.
- \$5 billion to expand road and transit capacity.
- \$1 billion to the Port of New Orleans to restore, protect, and improve infrastructure.
- \$1 billion to LADOTD to provide grants for restoration, protection, and improvements of infrastructure to Ports
- \$71.8 million for New Orleans Airport.
- \$2.9 billion in emergency relief funds for highways and other transportation infrastructure.
- \$20 million for development districts in LA.
- \$36 million for Louisiana railroads.
- \$150 million for Maritime Administration for cost of guaranteed loans to Louisiana Shipbuilders.

Subtitle I—Department of Energy

- \$11 million for a weatherization program to make Louisiana homes more energy-efficient.

Subtitle J—Department of Education

- \$750 million for a new teacher incentive fund, to help hurricane-impacted school systems retain qualified teaching professionals so that those teachers are available when students are able to return to class.
- \$5 million for Project Serv funds to provide resources to school districts and communities whose learning environment were disrupted by Hurricane Katrina to re-establish safe learning environments.
- \$4,000 per student in emergency funding would be disbursed to school systems for schools that absorb at least 30 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, thereby facilitating these displaced students' transition into new school systems and ensuring they receive high quality instruction. Public, private, and parochial schools would be eligible for this funding.
- \$600 million to the Louisiana Department of Education to meet costs of hurricane-affected school districts. These funds would allow affected public, private, and parochial schools to keep their funding, regardless of student enrollment, for one year.
- For purposes of determining the number of hurricane-displaced children in each State who require funding during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, data from the 2004-05 school year would be used.
- \$20 million in grants to ensure that homeless children and youth maintain access to the same free public education and services that other children already receive.
- For college students in a disaster area whose education was interrupted, the U.S. Secretary of Education would be authorized to grant one-time waivers of the amounts those students are required to repay under the Higher Education Act. The Secretary also would be able to modify the required and allowable uses of funds received under competitive grants programs such as TRIO or GEAR-UP (at the request of a hurricane-affected institution or other grantee).
- \$635 million for early childhood programs such as Head Start and Early Head Start for costs associated with services for pre-school aged children displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

- \$2 billion to assist areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina in repairing, renovating, altering, or constructing educational facilities, including public, private, and parochial schools.
- \$5 billion for a Postsecondary Education Stabilization Board to establish an Education Relief Fund to compensate postsecondary education institutions for direct and associated losses due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina. This Board would provide funds for construction, faculty salaries, educational programs related to the recovery effort, faculty recruitment costs, debt relief, and costs of lost tuition, revenue, and enrollment.

Subtitle K—Coast Guard

- \$10 million for removal of debris from the marine environment.

Subtitle L—Department of Interior

- \$8 million in the form of a direct lump-sum payment to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for financial assistance to hurricane-affected alligator farmers.
- \$27 million in the form of a direct lump-sum payment to the Louisiana Forestry Association for lost timber sales revenues from the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area.
- \$12 million in the form of a direct lump-sum payment to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for restoration of wildlife management areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana.

Subtitle M—Department of Agriculture

- \$313 million in the rural housing insurance fund for loans to section 502 borrowers.
- \$313 million for additional cost of direct loans for projects in hurricane-impacted communities in Louisiana.
- \$4 million for rural housing assistance grants.

Subtitle N—Department of Justice

- \$650 million for emergency law enforcement assistance (in the form of funds for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement).
- \$200 million in COPS program funding for hiring of police officers in areas that have experienced large influxes of displaced people as a result of the hurricane.
- \$10 million for a program to unite missing children with their family members in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- Federal district courts are encouraged to provide federal facilities for state and local courts to conduct their proceedings (in areas where Hurricane Katrina disrupted state and local operations).

Title II-Improvements To Disaster Assistance

Subtitle A—Immediate Disaster Relief

- Increases the federal share of FEMA disaster relief from the current 75% to 100% for 2 years, retroactive from the date of the August 29, 2005 disaster declaration, in the case of Louisiana.

- Waives federal caps on disaster relief assistance to individuals, households, state and local offices, and nonprofit organizations affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Doubles the level of authorized funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- Requires the design and implementation, by the Department of Homeland Security, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, of a federal process for approving state requests for management cost funding within 30 days of their receipt. Requires development of clear and concise guidelines to enable states to submit consistent requests.
- Ensures that religious organizations will not be denied federal assistance in repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing their facilities following damage or destruction of those facilities as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides that federally declared disaster areas may include the outer continental shelf, effective August 29, 2005.
- Expedites payments of federal assistance for debris clearance, removal and disposal from emergency roads; ensures that the clearing and removal of debris from emergency access roads are reimbursable under Sec. 407 of the Stafford Act; and makes debris removal from private land eligible for federal relief.
- Waives certain provisions of Stafford Act relating to reimbursement of costs.

Subtitle B—Providing Information and Assistance to Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

- Establishes review system to ensure federal relief to households and individuals is used only for authorized uses.
- Expresses sense of Senate that relief funds under the Stafford Act should not be used for gambling or for purchase of nonessential items, such as tobacco or alcoholic beverages.

Subtitle C—Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Requires Secretary of Homeland Security to set up regional and field office facilities for the Department, giving priority consideration to New Orleans in deciding where to put the regional headquarters. Requires report to Congress within 120 days of enactment on plans, cost estimates, and locations for the creation of a nationwide network of such regional offices.
- Authorizes \$600 million for the implementation in Louisiana of a wireless communications system for use in a future disaster or other emergency.
- Directs the Undersecretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response to carry out disaster preparedness exercises to test the nation's capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.
- Establishes an Office of the Special Inspector General for Hurricane Katrina Recovery. Calls for this Inspector General to be appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security in consultation with the Defense Secretary within 3 days of enactment of this Act.
- Requires GAO to report quarterly to Congress on the spending of funds appropriated by Congress for Hurricane Katrina recovery activities.

Title III-Individual Citizens Relief and Recovery

Subtitle A—Housing Relief

- Authorizes \$3.5 billion in emergency housing, including vouchers to pay temporary housing costs for displaced families, regardless of income and other typical eligibility requirements for relocation nationwide. Eases regulatory requirements to improve the flow of federal housing funds to affected disaster areas.

- Waives income and rent requirements under the HOME Investment Partnership Program to provide incentives to build mixed-income housing in the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Zone.
- Allows citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina to classify as First-Time Homebuyers to qualify for federal mortgage assistance programs available to First-Time Homebuyers.
- Authorizes the establishment of a multi-billion-dollar Home Business and Mortgage Protection Fund, from which grants can be awarded to eligible financial institutions for missed, past due, or late mortgage payments owed to them on properties located in the disaster area. Provides that a financial institution which is eligible for a grant under this section may not foreclose on a mortgagee's property, if that mortgagee can show financial hardship. Provides that failures to make mortgage payments on property in the disaster zone may not be reported to consumer reporting agencies.
- Increases per project cap on assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Program (which aids communities in rebuilding) to \$10 million, where project is carried out in the disaster zone. Waives requirement, for period of two years, that CDBG funds must benefit low- and moderate-income persons within declared disaster areas so that these funds can be used to rebuild infrastructure throughout the disaster zone. Provides regulatory flexibility under the CDBG program. (Sec. 305)
- Allows Housing Secretary to waive income limits and matching requirements with respect to 2005 and 2006 assistance.

Subtitle B—TANF Relief

- Increases amount of TANF funds available for hurricane-damaged states, and makes this change retroactive.

Subtitle C—Medicaid, Medicare, and Other Health Disaster Relief

- Provides targeted emergency Medicaid relief coverage for 5 months (with a possible 5 month extension) to those who resided in or lost their job in one of the impacted parishes using streamlined eligibility procedures. Coverage is for all those Katrina survivors up to 100% of the federal poverty level or up to 200% for pregnant women, children and the disabled. Louisiana parishes under a disaster declaration and other states caring for these Katrina evacuees are reimbursed at 100% FMAP for care provided through the emergency Medicaid relief program.
- Provides for 100 percent Federal matching assistance payments for parishes that were directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. Part B late enrollment penalty for Medicare beneficiaries is waived and the Secretary of HHS is directed to submit a plan to ensure the smooth transition of dual-eligibles to the Part D prescription drug benefit.
- Provides extended Medicaid coverage for any Katrina survivor who was receiving medical assistance before Hurricane Katrina. Further provides family counseling and mental health care for families where a member of the immediate family is a Katrina Survivor or first responder to Hurricane Katrina.
- Secretary of HHS will establish procedures to ensure that when a provider or supplier of health care services temporarily ceases offering their services or relocates to another community as a result of a natural disaster the interruption of services will not result in a termination of Medicare participation and reimbursement.
- If a public health emergency is declared by the Secretary of HHS, the Secretary has authority to waive the health care professional and physician state licensing requirements, enabling health care professionals licensed in other states to practice medicine in the areas declared to be a public health emergency.
- The Secretary of HHS may waive telemedicine licensing and certification requirements for health professionals providing diagnosis and treatment services to assist in treating victims of a public health emergency.
- One who knowingly or willingly falsifies their medical license or certification, or who provides medical services while misrepresenting their false licensure, risks fines or imprisonment.
- Exempts any Louisiana hospital within the affected areas from having to submit quality reports to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in order to receive reimbursements.
- Establishes an emergency fund to ensure that individuals or businesses that have private insurance do not lose their coverage because of Hurricane Katrina. This fund will pay for the premiums and co-pays of

displaced individuals who had preexisting private health insurance and small businesses who provided health benefits through private insurance to their employees. In doing so, this will reduce the number of displaced individuals who will rely on the Emergency Medicare and Medicaid program for immediate health insurance.

- Allows for displaced individuals who do not meet eligibility standards for Medicare, Medicaid, or the Disaster Relief Fund to apply for National Emergency Grants that will provide credits to assist with the purchase of health insurance.
- Amends the National Health Service Corps such that individuals who agree to work in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina are given priority during the grant application process. Also offers a reduced loan program for individuals who accept grants to work in the affected areas.
- Amends the Community Health Center Grants, such that applicants who have applied for a section 330 grant or have an pending application for a section 330 grant shall be presumptively eligible for Federally qualified health center look-alike designation. Further waives any requirement or eligibility criteria that the Secretary deems appropriate in awarding these grants.
- Provides 80% federal matching payments under Medicaid to any hospital, physician, Federally-qualified health center, or rural health clinic located in the State of Louisiana that provides items or services to survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Subtitle D—Bankruptcy Relief

Provides relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters by:

- Excluding payments from FEMA, other disaster relief agencies, and charitable organizations directly associated with a natural disaster from the definition of current monthly income;
- Allowing actual expenses incurred as a direct result of a natural disaster to be treated as expenses for purposes of the bankruptcy code's Chapter 13 means test;
- Ensuring that victims of natural disasters will qualify for the new bankruptcy reform bill's "special circumstances" provision, increasing their chances of qualifying for Chapter 7 bankruptcy;
- Permitting victims of a natural disaster to file for bankruptcy without first completing credit counseling if a natural disaster prevents them from doing so;
- Giving courts discretion, after notice and a hearing, to extend time limits to comply with paperwork and documentation requirements for victims of natural disasters; and
- Giving courts the discretion, after notice and a hearing, to waive or extend filing deadlines for small businesses directly affected by a natural disaster.

Subtitle E—Unemployment Compensation

- Provides an immediate extension of unemployment benefits for 13 weeks for those in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and evacuees who have exhausted their unemployment benefits. (These benefits would be covered by the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund.)

Title IV—Public Relief, Small Business, and Agriculture Recovery

Subtitle A—Education Assistance

- Requires the Secretary of Education to grant a waiver to all affected Institutions of Higher Education for unused Federal Work Study Programs funds.
- Provides for a 6-month deferment of student loans to those participating in the Title IV student loan program that were adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Education to grant certain waivers to hurricane-affected education institutions and other federal grantees impacted by Hurricane Katrina who receive federal education assistance.

Subtitle B—Small Business Recovery

Includes major provisions of the bipartisan “Small Business Recovery Act of 2005.”

Subtitle C—Agriculture

- Provides crop disaster assistance to for crops in Louisiana (other than sugarcane) that have suffered qualifying losses to their 2005 crop due to Hurricane Katrina.
- Establishes a sugar cane disaster assistance program that will help sugar farmers recover from losses this year and for estimated losses next year due to destruction of just-planted sugar cane.
- Provides \$40 million for infrastructure losses (barns or other structures, equipment and fencing).
- Helps dairy farmers with \$10 million in assistance for dairy cattle losses, production losses and animal health costs not including infrastructure losses.
- Provides \$11 million to implement the Livestock Indemnity Program and Livestock Compensation Program for the 11,000 head of cattle lost due to Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides \$30 million in disaster assistance (available through a program modeled on one established for Florida producers after a series of 2004 hurricanes), for horticulture growers (i.e., growers of flowers, fruits and vegetables) as well as citrus, nursery crops and Christmas tree producers. As a result of saltwater from the saltwater from the storm surge, many acres will be unsuitable for growing.
- Provides \$190 million for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program for the repair of damages to waterways and watersheds in parishes impacted by Hurricane Katrina.
- To help save farmland, provides \$40 million for the Emergency Conservation Program.
- To address great losses of timber, provides authority under the Tree Assistance Program to cover timber and Christmas trees. Also provides \$28 million for restoration and rehabilitation of forests as well as \$34 million to support research and education activities, including research on new ways to use damaged timber.
- \$120 million to rebuild the Southern Regional Research Center at New Orleans, LA, which suffered extensive damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
- \$25 million to completion of the ARS Sugarcane Research Laboratory at Houma, Louisiana.
- Expands the Delta Regional Authority, so it can help in more areas of Louisiana.
- Provides \$210 million in water and waste grants and loans to Louisianans in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides \$200 million in community facilities direct grants and loans to Louisianans in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Subtitle D—Privately Owned Utility Restoration

- Provides relief to electric utility and gas distribution companies for two types of costs: (1) direct losses related to rebuilding, repair, and restoration of facilities and services; and (2) loss of a significant part of a customer based for a sustained period.

Title V-Rebuilding of Infrastructure

Subtitle A—Actions by Federal Agencies

- Authorizes a new commission (known as the “Protecting Essential Louisiana Infrastructure, Citizens, and Nature” or “PELICAN” Commission) to provide a comprehensive, integrated hurricane protection, flood control, coastal restoration and maritime restoration program for the disaster area.
- Provides funding to implement measures to improve hurricane protection, flood damage prevention, navigation programs required to restore and enhance agricultural and energy industries, and coastal restoration efforts which would reduce hurricane storm surge and stabilize volatility in our domestic energy markets.

Subtitle B—Economic Development

- Provides \$10 billion in Community Development Block Grant Funding to create a Louisiana Business Redevelopment Fund for economic recovery and development activities. The State of Louisiana, the City of New Orleans, and authorities in the affected disaster parishes would distribute these funds through a development corporation, modeled upon the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation that is overseeing reconstruction efforts in the World Trade Center area of New York City.
- Establishes a Gulf of Mexico State Disaster Economic and Education Transition/Recovery/Relocation Fund and provide \$1 billion for recovery assistance for the impacted Federal and State agencies, businesses, institutions of higher education, and public-private partnerships in the disaster areas of the Gulf of Mexico states resulting from Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides \$70 million for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to restore the manufacturing and supply base in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama that was adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides emergency funding for the rebuilding of the public telecommunications infrastructure and facilities that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in the amount of \$250 million.
- Provides \$19 million for the Secretary of Commerce to provide grants for technology development activities to facilities the economic recovery of disaster areas in Louisiana. Activities included under this section: acquisition of more efficient first-responder communications, including deployable cellular towers in cases of emergency, reconstruction and redeployment of telecommunications equipment with priority given to small business concerns, increasing low-cost broadband access of low-and-moderate-income residents, and the creation of a dual-purpose wireless communication network in a 100-block area in the City of New Orleans.
- Gives the Secretary of Commerce the authority to direct the United States Customs Service to issue an automatic liquidation to provide much needed relief to the domestic crawfish processors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have been adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina and the continued dumping of crawfish tail meat from China.
- Establish and implement a program to provide low income residents in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama with NOAA Weather Radios at a discount or no cost. Expand the radio coverage of the NOAA Weather Radio system.
- Request NOAA to determine impacts of Hurricane Katrina on commercial and recreational fisheries, shrimp fleet, oyster industry in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Specifically, Determine impacts of Hurricane Katrina on habitats of wildlife and fisheries, including shrimp and oyster habitats; and Restore impacts habitat areas of wildlife, migratory birds, fisheries, including shrimp, oysters impacted by Hurricane Katrina.
- Directs the Secretary of Commerce to provide \$35 million per year for the next five years for the creation and maintenance of an Export Assistance Program in the affected states of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. This program would support export-related training and development assistance to companies in these states and provides them with assistance in seeking access to international markets for their products, including travel and marketing assistance.
- Provides \$200 million over a five year period from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce for an entrepreneurship redevelopment program to rebuild and diversify the recovering economies in disaster areas. Funding provides for an entrepreneur facility, a seed capital fund, a business accelerator program, and operation costs for the program.

Subtitle C—Transportation

- Establishes a new program under the U.S. Department of Transportation which will provide financial assistance for the construction, maintenance and repair of evacuation and energy supply routes in Louisiana.
- Establishes a new program under the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide grants to local governments that experience significant population growth to expand road and transit capacity in their affected communities.
- Provides for the operator of the Port of New Orleans to receive a grant to carry out activities to restore, protect and improvement the infrastructure of the Port.
- Establishes a new program under the U.S. Department of Transportation which will provide grants to operators of ports in the State of Louisiana other than the Port of New Orleans that were affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides \$71.8 million for reimbursements to the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport for anticipated revenue shortfalls due to Hurricane Katrina.
- \$2.9 billion is provided for the Highway Emergency Relief program and will be funded through the Treasury rather than the Highway Trust Fund.
- FHWA is directed to reimburse the Louisiana Department of Transportation for its cost of replacing a damaged bridge as a 6-lane bridge at current width standards.
- \$20 million is provided to the 5 development districts of South Louisiana to develop comprehensive plans.
- \$350 million is provided to elevate Interstate 10 in New Orleans from Carrollton Avenue to the I-610 split and from Elysian Fields to the I-610 split.
- Provides \$36 million for reimbursements to the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad for anticipated revenue shortfalls due to Hurricane Katrina.
- Provides \$190 million to the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority for revenues lost as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina.
- To stimulate shipbuilding, \$200 million is provided under Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, as amended, at a risk rate of 5 percent.

Subtitle D—AmeriCorps Disaster Relief Corps

- Establishes the AmeriCorps Disaster Relief Corps to carry out national service projects that address the needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, and other major disasters and emergencies.

Title VI-Hurricane Protection And Environmental Protection

Subtitle A—Hurricane Protection

- Includes a modified version of Domestic Offshore Energy Reinvestment Act of 2005, introduced by Sen. Vitter. This measure calls for federal government to share 50% of annual revenues received from offshore energy production with coastal producing states and coastal political subdivisions. (Parishes in the coastal zone will receive 35% of the share received by the State of Louisiana.) Specifies that these funds must be used for hurricane protection, storm damage prevention, conservation, coastal restoration, marine conservation or for the protection of critical energy infrastructure.
- Includes text of Offshore Fairness Act of 2005, introduced earlier this year by Sen. Vitter. This measure would correct an inequity in the law by ensuring that the seaward boundaries of Louisiana, Mississippi and

Alabama are the same as that of two other Gulf Coast states. Under current law, the Gulf Coast states of Texas and Florida have three marine leagues, or approximately 9 geographic miles, of offshore waters, while the Gulf Coast states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have only about three geographic miles of offshore waters. This measure ensures a consistent state/federal offshore boundary at three marine leagues for all five of these Gulf Coast states.

- Directs Secretary of Energy to take all actions needed to protect, improve, revitalize, rebuild, and strengthen the nation's energy infrastructure system.

Subtitle B—Environmental Protection and Wetlands Restoration

- Directs the Postmaster General in coordination with the Secretary of Interior to design, produce, and sell a "Louisiana Restoration Stamp" and deposit funds from sales of that stamp into a new Louisiana Restoration Stamp Fund to be used for hurricane-related restoration activities in the State of Louisiana.
- Authorizes funding for Environmental Protection Agency to restore Lake Pontchartrain, individual properties and public spaces. Appropriates \$20 million for 2005 and \$100 million for each fiscal year 2006-2015.
- Authorizes federal funds for Environmental Protection Agency for post-hurricane environmental activities including: water infrastructure repairs; drinking water emergency assistance grants; and activities related to reoccupation of buildings. Further ensures that EPA's statutory authority to conduct post-hurricane cleanup does not expire.
- Authorizes federal funds for removal of debris and hazardous wastes, restoration of water treatment infrastructure systems, and underground storage tank assessment and disposal.
- Authorizes \$150 million to the Historic Preservation Grant Program for grants to carry out preservation and conservation work on nationally significant historic structures and sites in hurricane-impacted areas. These grants would be administered by the National Park Service in collaboration with the State Historic Preservation Offices and National Center of Preservation Technology and Training in Natchitoches, Louisiana.
- Authorizes \$30 million in federal preservation grants targeted at National Historic Landmarks, \$8 million for the National Park Service to offer technical assistance to those seeking to rehabilitate or restore properties, and \$20 million to support Trust's preservation services to communities.
- Appropriates an amount equal to 15 percent of the total amount of grants made to the State of Louisiana through the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response to Hurricane Katrina for post disaster mitigation activities relating to flood prevention.

Title VII-Jobs Return And Repopulation Incentives

- Significantly lowers the federal "death tax" for families of those who died in the storm.
- Promotes growth in the disaster area by providing tax incentives to businesses that hire Katrina victims and relaxing depreciation rules for investment in property, plant, and equipment.
- Allows displaced persons to make tax-deferred, penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans to rebuild their homes and businesses.
- Provides a tax credit to employers who continue to pay their displaced employees.
- Provides incentives to encourage charitable giving to help Hurricane Katrina victims.
- Establishes a Relocation Tax Credit that would help individuals and businesses recover some of the costs due to relocating and returning after the storm.
- Suspends airline ticket taxes on flights into the affected area for three years, to help revitalize our important tourism industry.
- Permits half of income, up to \$35,000 (\$70,000 for couples), to be earned tax free through 2007.
- Provides a 5-year "carryback" of deductions for losses, to help soften the blow for those who have significant hurricane-related losses.
- Provides a \$1,000 credit for each job that small businesses add in the area.
- Offers incentives for investment and rebuilding in the form of a Disaster Zone Tax Credit, which is needed to promote the rebuilding of Louisiana's telecommunications infrastructure.

- Allows the State of Louisiana to issue up to \$40 billion in tax-exempt bonds.
- Provides a new housing tax credit for home purchases in the disaster zone.
- Expands Louisiana's allocation of the New Market Tax Credit and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, thereby encouraging private developers to build new communities and provide affordable housing.
- Authorizes the U.S. Treasury to issue "Gulf Opportunity Bonds" to help finance rebuilding.

Title VIII-Law Enforcement Improvements

- Ensures that parish sheriffs and district attorneys will be deemed units of local government for purposes of eligibility for federal grant programs (reflecting the fact that, under Louisiana law, neither district attorneys nor sheriffs are part of parish government budgets, and both are recognized as independent units for budgetary purposes).
- Requires regular reports to Congress on the federal government's Hurricane Katrina recovery activities.
- Establishes new federal crime for attacking federal employees who are engaged in federal recovery activities in a federally declared disaster area.
- Provides criminal penalties for those who knowingly making a false statement or nondisclosure that results in their receiving federal aid to which they are not entitled under this Act.
- Ensures that volunteers who provide assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina will have immunity from liability for injuries resulting from aid provided to such victims, except for injuries caused by willful, wanton, reckless or criminal conduct or conduct that constitutes a violation of a federal or state civil rights law.